

# Cane Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project Opening Ceremony

A project sponsored by the  
**Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative (THWI)**  
[www.tn.gov/environment/thwi](http://www.tn.gov/environment/thwi)



# Cane Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project

## Opening Ceremony

The Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative (THWI), formed in August 2011, aims to maintain and improve water resources across the state by bringing together the public, landowners, resource management agencies, and conservation-focused organizations.

THWI is the result of a partnership between the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA). The goal is to promote communication, collaboration, and thoughtful water resources planning among a broad partnership of agencies and stakeholders.

The Cane Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project is the initial kick-off project for the newly formed THWI and represents a successful collaboration between the THWI agencies and with the City of Jackson and Madison County working together to solve a stormwater flooding issue in Bemis, a historical community located in downtown Jackson, Tennessee.



### Cane Creek Tributary Restoration Project

Bemis Community \* Jackson, Tennessee  
Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative  
July 2012

#### Before: Pre-Restoration Conditions at Cane Creek

- History of flooding
- Streams channelized
- Wetlands drained

#### After: Post-Restoration Conditions at Cane Creek

- + Natural stream meanders
- + Stormwater detention and bio-infiltration swales
- + Wetlands restored
- + Newly planted riparian habitat
- + Live stake nursery
- + Outdoor recreation venue

#### Project Benefits at Cane Creek

##### Improved Habitat

- ♦ 1,200 feet of channelized habitat improved
- ♦ Two acres of floodplain reforested
- ♦ One acre of floodplain restored as wetland habitat

##### Improved Water Quality

###### Estimated long-term impacts for the watershed:

- ♦ 35% reduction in total suspended solids (1,500 pounds/year)
- ♦ 20% reduction in total phosphorus (16 pounds/year)
- ♦ 15% reduction in total nitrogen (72 pounds/year)

##### Educational Site

- ♦ Citizens learn benefits of stream and habitat restoration
- ♦ Green infrastructure practices control stormwater
- ♦ Live stakes nursery available for community use

Cane Creek Restoration Project is a working model...

#### Restoring streams by eliminating channelization:

- + Promotes less flooding
- + Lowers maintenance costs
- + Increases property value

#### Stream restoration creates real benefits:

- + Improves water quality for recreational purposes
- + Stabilizes stream banks
- + Helps remove excess sediment from the stream

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This project was made possible through the efforts of





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## Opening Ceremony

This inaugural project from the Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative helps to mitigate the recurrent flooding issue in the historical community of Bemis in Jackson, Tennessee.

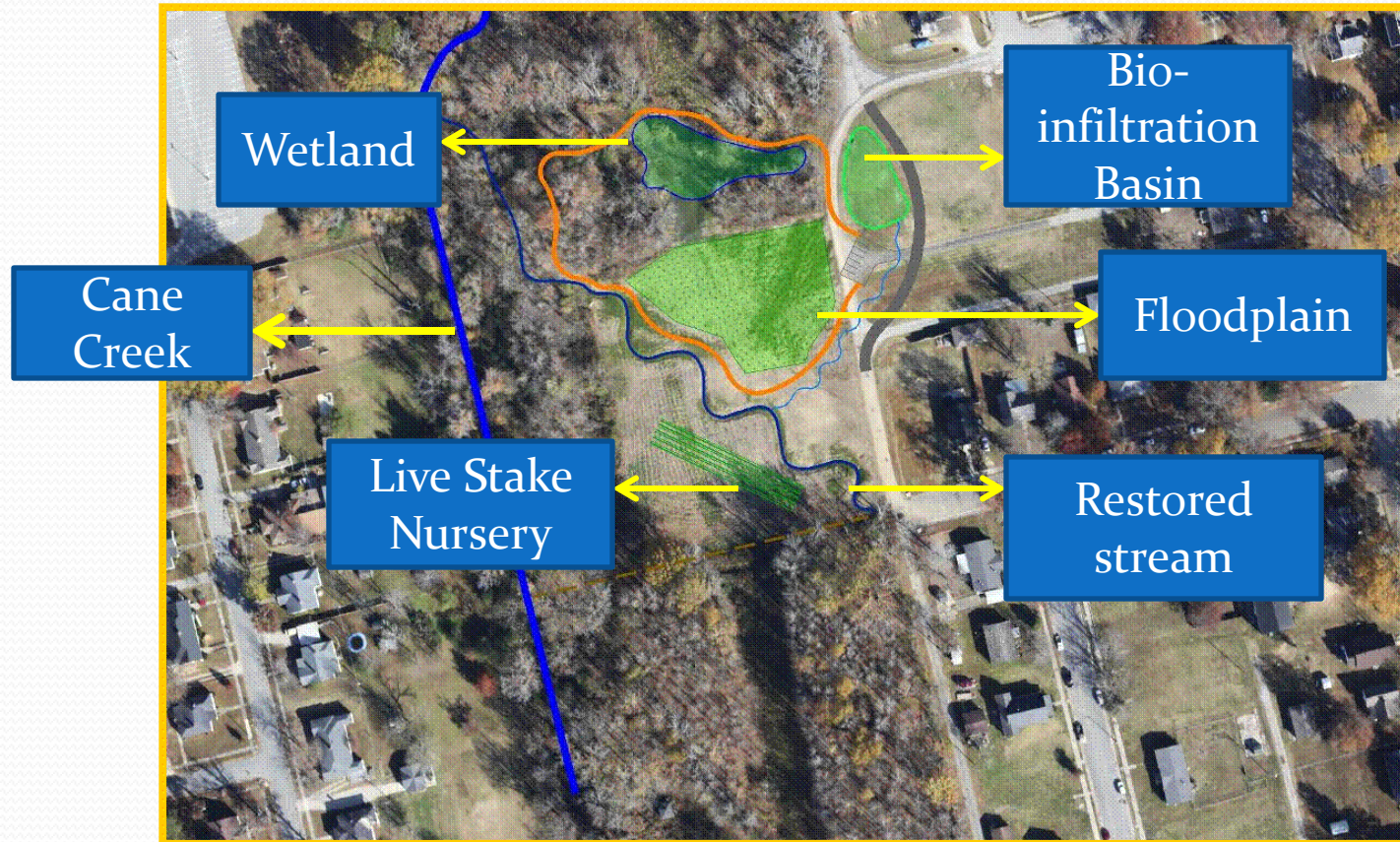
This project is a restoration campaign to take a small tributary of Cane Creek from a channelized conveyance to an engineered, meandering stream with a floodplain.

Additionally, this restoration combines several new approaches to managing stormwater, improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat and viewing, and providing educational and recreational opportunities for the local community.



TDEC Deputy Commissioner **Shari Meghreblian**, TDEC Commissioner **Bob Martineau**, Jackson Mayor **Jerry Gist**, State Rep. **Jimmy Eldridge**, TN Healthy Watershed Initiative Coordinator **Trisha Johnson**, and West TN River Basin Authority Exec. Dir. **David Salyers** at the Cane Creek Tributary Restoration project in Jackson on July 30, a project funded by the new Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative

## Aerial View of the Cane Creek Restoration Project





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TDEC Commissioner Bob Martineau relaying the economic and environmental benefits to mitigating stormwater problems through the restoration of natural hydrologic systems.



Mayor Jerry Gist, City of Jackson share the flood control and storm water management advantages to the Bemis community from this project.



West Tennessee River Basin Authority Executive Director, David Salyers, and TDEC Legal Services Director Alan Leiserson, standing by the new educational signs on display at the site.



# Cane Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project

## Opening Ceremony in Jackson



TDEC Deputy Commissioner  
Dr. Shari Meghreblian



West TN River Basin Authority  
Executive Director David Salyers



Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris



TVA Vice President Brenda Brickhouse



# Cane Creek Tributary Stream Restoration Project

## Opening Ceremony in Jackson



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THWI has additional funding available at this time to support the implementation of certain projects that are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- Protect and maintain the state's healthy watersheds;
- Prevent watersheds from becoming impaired; and
- Accelerate restoration successes on impaired streams

Applications for Request for Proposals are available on the THWI website:  
[www.tn.gov/environment/thwi](http://www.tn.gov/environment/thwi)

The initiative encourages public support and participation from other water quality-focused organizations. Opportunities also will be available to attend annual THWI meetings, communicate with THWI coordinator Trisha Johnson, and access the THWI website for educational information and best practices.

For more information about the Tennessee Healthy Watershed Initiative or to discuss projects and involvement opportunities, please contact **THWI Coordinator Trisha Johnson** at (931) 854-1552 or [trisha\\_johnson@tnc.org](mailto:trisha_johnson@tnc.org).

